From: Nathan Neulinger
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:24am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

My view on the settlement is very simple - microsoft's practices have
prevented me as an independent developer from writing software that can
either compete or interoperate with servers that they have written.

The settlement does nothing to help this, and in fact, seems to
legitimize MS's discrimination against non-microsoft products.

Any solution/settlement/etc. that provides less that the capability for
full interoperability (i.e. FULL documentation of ALL microsoft network
protocols) is worthless to me.

I'd also agree with the requirement for full documentation of any
microsoft file formats. And please don't fall for the "We're changing
the format to XML nonsense", cause microsofts idea of changing the file
format's to XML looks something like this:

Old Format:

        Beginning of File:
        UNDOCUMENTED_BINARY_BLOB
        End of File:

New XML Format:

        Beginning of File:
        <OfficeDoc Version=XP>UNDOCUMENTED_BINARY_BLOB</OfficeDoc>
        End Of File:

Sure, it's completely legal XML, it's also completely worthless since
you can't use it.

I am a Systems Administrator for the University of Missouri - Rolla, and
while we are a significant microsoft campus, that does not mean we are
happy with the situation. We are CONSTANTLY having to develop nasty
workarounds to microsoft interoperability problems because we also have
a sizable Unix (HP, Sun, and Linux) infrastructure.

I'd hope that whatever solution y'all come up with makes it clear that
Microsoft cannot discriminate against free and open-source software just
because they are a competitor.

-- Nathan

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